Chemicals Corporation Ltd. plant due to equipment problems; and

(iv) recurrent gas shortages in the gas-based fertilizer plants alimented ex-Hazira and the delay in the scheduled augmentation of gas supply along the HBJ pipeline.

The units producing phosphatic fertilizes had to cut back production due to demand stagnation, funds constraints and uncertainty over the availability/level of the special concession prevailing during the period of peak Kharif demand.

Melghat Project Tiger

*248. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT
RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much money is being spent annually on the protection of the tigers in the Melghat Project Tiger in the Amaravati District of Maharashtra;

(b) how much money spent on the protection of the poor tribals from these tigers;

(c) while evolving a policy and programme to protect the tigers in this area what was in the mind of the policy makers to do in order to protect the poor tribals from the tigers; and

(d) what steps will be taken to protect the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (d) Money released under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is meant for conservation of Tiger and its ecosystem. However, local people including tribals get some employment through this scheme. Beneficiary Oriented Tribal Development Scheme has been launched for relocation of tribals from included villages to protect the tribals from tiger. The boundary of Melghat Tiger Reserve has been realigned and 39 densely populated villages have been excluded from Sanctuary. Eco-development schemes are being implemented for fringe dwellers including tribals to reduce man animal conflict.

The year-wise Central Assistance released during VIIIth Five Years Plan is as follows:—

Project Tiger Scheme

Year	*Central Assistance Amount (In rupees)*
1992-93	44,14,700
1993-94	36,71,300
1994-95	44,47,500
1995-96	45,35,300
1996-97	32,25,000
Eco-Development Scheme	
1992-93	5,59,700
1993-94	10,91,000
1994-95	5,07,600
1995-96	18,01,100
1996-97	7,72,500

रिंग रेल सेवा के अन्तर्गत यात्रा कर रहे व्यक्ति

*249. **प्रो॰ विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली में रिंग रेलवे में प्रतिदिन औसतन कितने व्यक्ति यात्रा करते हैं;

(ख) क्या रिंग रेलवे का विस्तार करने की कोई योजना है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उक्त योजना के अन्तर्गत प्रतिदिन कितने व्यक्तियों द्वारा यात्रा करने की संभावना है; और

(घ) इस योजना को कब तक पूरा कर लिए जाने की संभावना है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) 1996-97 के दौरान रिंग रेल, दिल्ली में प्रतिदिन औसतन 3435 यात्रियों ने यात्रा की थी।

(ख) जी हां।